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13 October 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Training

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ATTENTION :

SUBJECT : Critique of National Interdepartmental Seminar (NIS)

1. I must admit that prior to my attendance at the National Interdepartmental Seminar (NIS) that I had serious misgivings as to its value given the fact that traditionally it dealt principally with the subject of Counter-Insurgency and that previous Division attendants had rated the Seminar so poorly. The Seminar unquestionably has changed its objectives and focus although its present title "National Interdepartmental Seminar on Problems of Development and Internal Defense" is somewhat a misnomer. This Seminar dealt primarily with International Relations; Formulation of U.S. Policy; Complexities of Foreign Policy and U. S. Domestic Problems. The Seminar might better be titled "National Interdepartmental Seminar on U. S. Foreign and Domestic Policy".

2. I was pleasantly surprised at the Seminar when I learned of the calibre of speakers and the content of their presentations. The Seminar turned out to be not only interesting and stimulating but most rewarding. It provided an opportunity for in depth inquiry into some of the international and domestic problems confronting the United States today. It definitely accomplished its purpose in broadening the thinking of its members with regard to these problems. The Seminar with its new outlook, unquestionably is of value to the Agency and its Senior personnel and I recommend that the Agency continue sending personnel.

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4. In summary, the National Interdepartmental Seminar, is an important program of studies in international and domestic relations. Its success is entirely dependent on its choice of guest speakers. I was most fortunate in that the Seminar that I attended, was able to procure an excellent array of speakers including the late Hon. Dean Acheson; The Assistant Secretary of State, Marshall Green; The Assistant Secretary of State David Newson; Former Ambassador, George McGhee; Former Ambassador Franklin Williams; Dr. Sidney Jones and Mr. George Lodge.



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